

25X1A2g

INTELLIGENCE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

Country: India

Subject: Difficulties of Foreign Missionaries

25X1A6a

This unclassified information for US Officials
Only is supplied for the possible interest of
your country. It does not warrant dissemination

25X1A2g

Date of Info : Apr 53 and earlier

25X1X6

1. At least so far as Assam is concerned, the Indian authorities increasingly opposed to all types of foreign missionary work. The principal complaint is that the missionaries are fomenting discontent among the hill people, particularly the Nagas. Nehru himself made a speech in Manipur in March, 1953, in which he blamed "outsiders" for encouraging the Nagas to demand independence. It was obvious to everyone that by "outsiders" he meant the foreign, particularly US, missionaries. Nehru's speech was followed by a raid of 60 armed police on a missionary headquarters in Manipur, with the object of finding proof of these allegations.
2. Later the governor of Assam called all foreign missionaries to Shillong and warned them not to support the tribesmen. When missionary spokesmen protested that they never took part in political affairs, the governor stated that henceforth all foreign missionaries would have to actively support the Government of India (GOI). This the missionaries are reluctant to do. Hence the whole question of the status of foreign missionaries in Assam is very much in doubt at the present time.

25X1X6

25X1X8

-end-

RETURN TO CIA
LIBRARY